

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Forest Pest Management
Box 5895, Asheville, N. C. 28803

REPLY TO: 5200(5230)

March 3, 1975

SUBJECT: Beech Creek Seed Orchard

TO: Forest Supervisor
National Forests in North Carolina

Attention: Walt Smith



I visited the Beech Creek Seed Orchard on February 27, 1975, to check on the status of the pine needle scale Phenacaspis pinifoliae (Fitch.). Adult scales on several trees which had been treated with both Cythion and dormant oil were still alive and a number of eggs were found. From this it would appear that the infestation is still viable and that a control program will be necessary to prevent further damage. Egg hatch will probably occur at about the time the new needles begin to grow. I would advise that a careful watch be kept to determine when egg hatch begins. Spraying with Cythion should commence as soon as crawlers begin to emerge and continue until no more activity can be found. This will undoubtedly call for repeated applications at 10-day intervals as per the label instructions. In the event of heavy rains reapplication will be necessary. As you know, this insect is very difficult to control. I cannot stress enough the need to get the pesticide on during the crawler stage as it is the only time that a pesticide is effective.

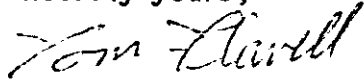
Two Cherokee Virginia pines were found infested with Pissodes approximatus Hopk. One of these trees was dying from root strangulation; the other had an apparently healthy root system. However, root cultures are being made to determine whether or not a pathogen is present. This species of weevil normally attacks stumps and dead and dying trees, but it is capable of attacking and killing apparently healthy trees. For this reason it can be quite a problem, particularly in Christmas tree plantations and the like. I suspect that the weevils may have been attracted to the orchard when pruning operations were in progress.

I would suggest a careful examination of all of the sources where pruning has been done to detect Pissodes infested trees. Quick removal and destruction of infested trees (including roots) should prevent any increase in the weevil population.

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If you have any questions or if I can be of any further help with these problems, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Flavell".

THOMAS H. FLAVELL
Supervisory Entomologist

For: JOHN H. THOMPSON
Field Office Supervisor